

The Premier League

Issue 72
Results
Season 7
Session 5

Editorial

If you look at the bottom of the page this issue, you'll notice that I now have a home email address. This means I am now happy to accept email orders, provided they are in a sensible format (which hopefully means Excel 95 format: I'd like to accept later formats, but my copy of Office isn't recent enough. Of course, if someone would like to get me a copy of Office 2000, they would earn my eternal gratitude!)

Also at the bottom is a website address. This is a very basic site (it's a start), but does have electronic versions of the rules, the latest issue and an Excel order form, which those of you looking to order by email may like to download. I intend to add links to like-minded people as time permits, but somewhat to my surprise TPL appears to be the first UK United game with a website of any sort. A rather sad state of affairs really. The Italian hobby by contrast has whole leagues online, and a cross-league statistics site. If anyone has suggestions for sensible links, I'd be glad to include them.

Resignations this time from John Coshall (who felt the zine was too slow for him, fair enough) and David Merry (who made his father look efficient at writing orders, and moved so often the zine couldn't keep up), and Mike Richardson at Eardley End is sacked. We have one person waiting, so at least 2 vacancies, so if you know anyone who might be interested let me know.

You may remember that last issue I gave a plug to Maycon, 2-5th May. I said that it was hosting Spielchamps UK, a team competition over 4 games (which I didn't mention but were Carcassonne II, Acquire, Settlers of Catan and Puerto Rico.) As soon as that issue went out, I got hold of Hopscotch issue 200 (big milestone that one. Hopscotch still looks much the same as it did with issue 2.) Hopscotch gives a plug in turn to the Cambridge Mind Sports Olympiad. This is being held 3-5th May, with tournaments (among others) in Acquire, Settlers and Puerto Rico. Hmmm. You'd think in a hobby full of intelligent people we could figure out how to avoid running 2 conventions running tournaments in the same 3 games on the same weekend. But apparently not. No wonder Mind Sports keeps going bankrupt.

DruidenWalzer

The editorial has taken over this time, so a very quick review!

DruidenWalzer is a 2 player german game from Kosmos in the usual small box format. It takes about 40 minutes, and I'd say it was an enjoyable game of skill, with plenty of player interaction (although poor players may find it looks luck-based at first). It probably comes in at £12 ish. The basic idea is that cards valued 1-5 are piled under a circle of trees, 4 yours, 4 your opponents. Druids sit in the trees and try to kill off the trees of the other player, which they do by contests.

When a contest takes place, each sides druids compare the numbers of the top cards of the trees they are in, and the losing players trees begin to die (2 dead trees loses the game). Players on their turns can either move a druid, discard a card or play a card on to a tree. Placing a card is the key one. When you place a card *all other cards of that value rotate round the trees*. This is weird at first, because your cards can become your opponents and vice versa, but it's a very subtle piece of game design. After rotations, a contest follows.

So there you go: an overlooked classic, easy to play but with fair strategic depth. And because your moves tend to rotate your opponents cards, there's a lot of interaction and the potential for vicious play if that's your way. Recommended.

Deadline: Friday ?? ??????? 2003

Martin Burroughs, 15 New Earth St.,
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martinburroughs@tiscali.co.uk
myweb.tiscali.co.uk/teepeeyell/index.htm

DIVISION ONE

Subway Replicants

17 Attacks, 17 Shots, 3-5-2

Goals: Goncourt 27, 68, 85, Halles 70

Pooch take an early lead and make a fight of it in the first half, but Subway take over after the break.

Injuries:

4 2 Pooch City

5 Attacks, 5 Shots, 4-3-3

Trudy 7, 39

Subway take over after the break.

Cassandra (0 levels)

The South

48 Attacks, 22 Shots, 3-4-3

Goals: E.Heskey 26, Hunts Cross 8

Booked: Hunts Cross, Octahedron

Injuries:

2 0 Pitchwheels IV

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 4-4-2

Best (-3 levels)

No resistance from Pitchwheels under assistant manager Burroughs as The South look strong.

Salford Albion

12 Attacks, 8 Shots, 5-3-2

Goals: Pennington 47, Jackie 30

Booked: Regis

Defensive formations all round, but the Chocolats can't hold on to their early penalty lead as Salford deservedly win.

2 1 The Chocolats

1 Attacks, 0 Shots, 4-3-3

Vanilla Dreams 20(pen)

Pralin

Riding The Tiger

15 Attacks, 7 Shots, 3-5-2

Goals: Backdoor 76(pen)

Booked: SixtyNine

Injuries: Jism (0 levels)

A hit-trick for Caveman in the first half seals the victory for Hanna, as Riding The Tiger can't capitalise on their attacking pressure.

1 5 Hanna Barberans

21 Attacks, 12 Shots, 4-3-3

Captain Caveman 13, 25, 27, Lillee 30, Rufus Ruffcat 66

Cowdrey, Muttley, Captain Caveman

Greenidge (-3 levels)

Sine Language

51 Attacks, 21 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Octagon 75

Booked: Abelian

Injuries:

1 0 Heffalumps

20 Attacks, 6 Shots, 3-2-5

Tullybelton (-6 levels), Chadwick (-6 levels)

A nightmare for Heffalumps as the top 2 meet. Not only do they lose, but two serious injuries will do their title hopes no favours either.

Pooch City

8 Attacks, 8 Shots, 3-3-4

Goals: Trudy 16, 40, 64, 79(pen), Irwin 41

Booked: Pike, Trudy

Sent Off:

Trudy's incredible goalscoring run continues, as Pooch walk to an easy victory.

5 0 The South

1 Attacks, 1 Shots, 4-4-2

C.Black

Pitchwheels IV

1 Attacks, 0 Shots, 4-4-2

Goals:

Injuries:

Pitchwheels once again miss their manager, but look like holding on until Tetrahedron scores a late winner.

0 1 Sine Language

19 Attacks, 12 Shots, 5-3-2

Tetrahedron 86

Plus (-1 levels)

The Chocolats

19 Attacks, 8 Shots, 4-3-3

1 5 Subway Replicants

34 Attacks, 19 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Vanilla Dreams 14 Monceau 17, Auber 41, 77, Balard 35, Javel 17
 The Chocolats don't seem to be improving, as Subway respond to the home sides opening goal in devastating fashion.

Hanna Barberans

21 Attacks, 6 Shots, 4-2-4

Goals: Red Baron 75(pen) (1 pen missed)

Booked: Sawtooth

In a defensively strong game, only a penalty separates the two teams (although it could have been two!)

1 0 Salford Albion

7 Attacks, 3 Shots, 5-3-2

Batson, George Liquor

Heffalumps

48 Attacks, 22 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Ant 75, Buffonge 27, 36

Booked: Portman, Buffonge

A strong play for midfield dominance by Riding The Tiger, but the home team loft the ball over top for what turns out to be 3 easy points.

3 0 Riding The Tiger

16 Attacks, 6 Shots, 3-5-2

Shakti, Jism

Manager of the Month: Peter Stanton (Sine Language)

Club	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	GPP	£k	CP	Manager
Sine Language	7	2	0	19	5	14	23	30	102	61	Peter Stanton
Heffalumps	6	0	3	21	14	7	18	22	3599	23	St John Swainson
Hanna Barberans	6	0	3	17	11	6	18	30	578	49	Nic Chilton
Subway Replicants	5	1	3	32	26	6	16	28	815	41	Keith Morton
Salford Albion	4	1	4	14	12	2	13	27	510	44	John Merry
Pooch City	4	0	5	23	25	-2	12	20	685	25	Howard Bishop
Riding The Tiger	3	2	4	30	23	7	11	13	468	25	Chris Tyler
The South	3	1	5	17	20	-3	10	14	1567	40	Ian Owen
The Chocolats	2	0	7	17	32	-15	6	27	2322	28	Willem Moene
Pitchwheels IV	1	1	7	10	32	-22	4	30	1024	15	David Binnie

After a good session, Sine Language increase their lead at the top as rivals Heffalumps falter, but hold on to second place. Only by a whisker though, as Hanna Barberans get two wins and are now only trail on goal difference.

Riding The Tiger were fourth, but with no points this time fall badly and now find themselves just above the relegation zone. Going the other way to fill their old slot, Subway Replicants look to be reliving past glories this time, while Salford perform solidly but unexceptionally again.

At the bottom, Pooch rise a place but are still 2 points from relegation, while the bottom three keep the same positions. While The South keep in touch, the bottom two don't get a point between them. Is it too early for me to say The Chocolats are too good to go down?

DIVISION TWO

Canine City

9 Attacks, 4 Shots, 4-4-2

Goals: Saluki 24, Husky 25

Injuries: Husky (-3 levels)

An even match for once, as Canine start well, but Biscuits show more stamina and claw their way back in the dying seconds.

2 2 Biscuits F.C.

15 Attacks, 5 Shots, 4-3-3

Fig Roll 91, Jammy Dodger 45

Chedders (0 levels)

Born Free

29 Attacks, 12 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Hippopotamus 10, 23, 44, Percheron 59, Seahorse

84, Hedgehog 34

Booked:

A convincing win for Born Free as The Capitols put up little resistance.

6 0 The Capitols

1 Attacks, 1 Shots, 5-3-2

Hedora

Eardley End

2 Attacks, 1 Shots, 4-3-3

Goals:

Injuries:

Eardley used to have a reputation for rash attacking, but no sign of that here, as Beat Happening continue their dramatic run of form.

0 6 Beat Happening F.C.

17 Attacks, 9 Shots, 5-3-2

Edge 1, 39, 89(pen), Zico 22, Best 49, Stam 46

Blissett (0 levels)

Wacko Wanderers

8 Attacks, 6 Shots, 3-3-4

Goals: Jack 72

Booked: Jasper

Wacko bravely attack while the Genii look happy to go for one point. It's not to be though as Jack breaks the deadlock.

1 0 Classically Decomposed

2 Attacks, 1 Shots, 4-4-2

Video Nasties

47 Attacks, 23 Shots, 4-2-4

Goals: Simpsons 64, 82

Booked:

Injuries:

A one-sided match between the top two, although perhaps it wouldn't have been had the Idiots not had so many injuries.

2 1 The Village Idiots

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 5-3-2

John L.Sullivan 37(pen)

Green

Alejandro Lavorante (-5 levels), People (-2 levels), Hart (0 levels)

Biscuits F.C.

24 Attacks, 12 Shots, 4-2-4

Goals: Trio 5

Booked:

Sent Off: Jammy Dodger

Neither side seemed much bothered about midfield subtleties in this one, and Biscuits just shade it, though not convincingly.

1 0 Born Free

20 Attacks, 9 Shots, 3-2-5

Hartebeest, Hedgehog

The Capitols

18 Attacks, 8 Shots, 4-3-3

Goals: Munich 12, King Kong 35

Booked: Trent, Berlin

Sent Off: Brooklyn

Video start poorly, but soon get in their stride in an eventful match. They attack well, although the scoreline is flattering.

2 5 Video Nasties

30 Attacks, 13 Shots, 3-2-5

Simpsons 23(pen), NewsAtTen 61, Football 57, Dads

Army 31, Strongest Man 74

Brambly Hedge, Strongest Man, Bigger Breakfast

Beat Happening F.C.

28 Attacks, 28 Shots, 3-5-2

Goals: Daraul 6, 64, Kettle 36, Nine 89

Injuries:

Beat get their now expected victory, with Canine somewhat hampered by injury.

4 0 Canine City

3 Attacks, 0 Shots, 4-4-2

Gould (-1 levels), Greyhound (0 levels)

Classically Decomposed

21 Attacks, 9 Shots, 3-4-3

Goals: Vivaldi 28(pen), Farnaby 18

Booked:

The battle for bottom place, and Eardley put up no defence to speak of.

2 0 Eardley End

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 4-3-3

Boucher

The Village Idiots

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 5-3-2

Goals:

Booked: Ossie Ocasio

A less than exciting match, as Wacko overcome the defensive performance of their managerless opponents.

0 1 Wacko Wanderers

14 Attacks, 4 Shots, 3-3-4

Jack 5

Manager of the Month: Andrew MacAlister (Beat Happening) (for what may be an unprecedented third consecutive session!)

Club	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	GPP	£k	CP	Manager
Video Nasties	7	1	1	23	9	14	22	18	298	36	Graham Thomas
Biscuits F.C.	4	4	1	13	7	6	16	11	2600	39	Simon Brooks
Beat Happening F.C.	5	0	4	28	18	10	15	31	304	59	Andrew MacAlister
The Village Idiots	5	0	4	11	15	-4	15	30	1019	21	Vacant
Canine City	4	2	3	23	17	6	14	18	1908	20	Arthur Owen
Wacko Wanderers	4	1	4	10	16	-6	13	17	2048	31	Pete Burrows
Born Free	3	2	4	21	12	9	11	20	325	25	Dave Carter
The Capitols	3	1	5	13	23	-10	10	0	1516	14	Alex Bardy
Eardley End	1	3	5	8	21	-13	6	32	2028	28	Vacant
Classically Decomposed	1	2	6	6	18	-12	5	16	657	27	Dave Gittins

It's plain sailing for Video at the top, back to form after last session's blip. Dramatic changes below them though. Village Idiot's unlikely promotion chase comes to a halt with nil points, and Canine also do badly, while much fancied Biscuits take advantage of all this to rise to second. The real shock though is Beat Happening who with 2 wins now occupy the third promotion spot. Astonishing stuff.

With Village Idiots and Canine falling off, we now have a large chasing pack in the middle of the table, which is joined by Wacko Wanderers, charging up from 8th in Beat Happening's wake. Losing out are The Capitols, who after a second bad session fall into the relegation zone. It's still Eardley and Classically Decomposed at the bottom, but the point gap is a lot closer now. Both look like getting detached from the main group though, so they need some wins quickly.

DIVISION THREE

The 'A' Team

18 Attacks, 10 Shots, 4-2-4

Goals: Arnie 32
Booked: Aardvark, Antelope, Aldershot
Sent Off: Alligator
Injuries:

A good result for Tantoine, holding out for the draw, and The A Team must be disappointed to see all their attacking go unrewarded.

1 1 Tantoine F.C.

2 Attacks, 1 Shots, 5-3-2

Biggs 11
Artoo

Organa (-4 levels)

Grand Prix Rovers

37 Attacks, 37 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Mercury 34, 63, Mars 75, Churchill 9
Booked:
Injuries: Saturn (-2 levels)

A 6 pointer, and Grand Prix put on an exemplary attacking display to secure victory.

4 0 Maidswater

3 Attacks, 2 Shots, 4-3-3

Delgardo

Midkemia

27 Attacks, 13 Shots, 4-2-4

Goals:
Sent Off:
Injuries: Queg (-4 levels)

The shock result of the session, as Midkemia (top of the table by some way) fall to minnows Morning Star, trailing at the foot of the league. Star looked to deserve a draw at least with some fine defensive play, but the penalty was a bonus for them, especially as they looked the more violent of the two sides.

0 1 Morning Star

2 Attacks, 2 Shots, 5-3-2

Knox 53(pen)
Janice
Scarlet (-4 levels)

The Spice Of Life

37 Attacks, 19 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Chilli 47, Saffron 66, Mini Madras 51, 71

Another surprise win, as Spice stage a massive second-half revival to wrench the game from their opponents.

4 1 Lanchester

21 Attacks, 13 Shots, 4-2-4

Deviance 32

Moss Side Streetfighters

11 Attacks, 5 Shots, 5-2-3

Goals: Hardy 34
Booked:
Sent Off:
Injuries: Feist (0 levels)

Siwo clearly go for the draw, and could have had if Nabakov had only scored his penalty!

1 0 Siwo Prisoners

5 Attacks, 0 Shots, 6-2-2

Nabakov (1 pen missed)
Gamma
Wolfe

Tantoine F.C.

11 Attacks, 3 Shots, 4-4-2

Goals:
Booked:

Another good performance from Grand Prix, with a goal in each half settling things nicely for them.

0 2 Grand Prix Rovers

32 Attacks, 13 Shots, 3-2-5

Orion 58, Churchill 24
Churchill

Maidswater

24 Attacks, 24 Shots, 4-3-3

Goals: Duval 47, Breezer 74, Tequila 6
Booked: Woodies, Two Dogs, Duval
Injuries:

No problems for Maidswater, not allowing Moss Side a sniff of the ball.

3 0 Moss Side Streetfighters

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 4-4-2

Pynchon (0 levels)

Morning Star

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 5-3-2

Goals:

Booked: Camus

Another missed penalty, they seem to be all the rage this session. Still, it had no effect on the result.

0 2 The 'A' Team

7 Attacks, 2 Shots, 3-3-4

Aberdeen (1 pen missed), Andover 7, Albion 19

Lanchester

25 Attacks, 11 Shots, 4-3-3

Goals: Normal 80, Phase 45

Booked: Regression, Phase

Injuries:

Midkemia win the first half, Lanchester the second, and a fair draw results.

2 2 Midkemia

24 Attacks, 13 Shots, 3-2-5

Jeffers 4, Arutha 13

Pug, Romney

Jeffers (-4 levels)

Siwo Prisoners

13 Attacks, 5 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Fabio 62, Dana 9

Injuries: Dana (-2 levels), Queen (0 levels)

Siwo get back on track with 3 easy points, despite 2 injured players.

2 0 The Spice Of Life

5 Attacks, 2 Shots, 4-4-2

Manager of the Month: Richard Ramsden (Grand Prix Rovers)

Club	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	GPP	£k	CP	Manager
Midkemia	7	1	1	24	7	17	22	15	1625	21	Richard Tarver
The 'A' Team	6	1	2	17	9	8	19	19	3703	37	Mick Haytack
Lanchester	5	2	2	17	11	6	17	30	323	24	Vacant
Siwo Prisoners	5	1	3	17	11	6	16	29	2624	49	Mike Wassall
Moss Side Streetfighters	4	1	4	10	11	-1	13	10	5971	38	Martin Waterson
The Spice Of Life	4	0	5	15	16	-1	12	17	934	26	Paul Cockayne
Grand Prix Rovers	3	2	4	14	18	-4	11	10	711	58	Richard Ramsden
Maidswater	3	0	6	12	22	-10	9	21	92	42	John Walker
Tantoine F.C.	2	1	6	7	17	-10	7	22	1335	20	Mark Stretch
Morning Star	1	1	7	4	15	-11	4	23	-710	20	Brain In A Jar

A curious session, with the top teams unable to put a foot right, and almost every match going against the formbook. Just shows once again how competitive this division is. Midkemia keep the top spot, but things look a lot tighter now, and they are no longer running away with things. The 'A' Team swop places with Lanchester to go second, while the next 3 teams all get one win and are unchanged. Lanchester now have little leeway though if they want to stay in the top three.

At the bottom, it's all topsy turvy again. With 2 wins Grand Prix shoot up to 7th, and now find themselves only 6 points from a promotion spot. Maidswater may be happy with 3 points, while Morning Star get their first win of the season. Granted, that still leaves them last, but they now have some pride at least, and Tantoine look within reach after a bad session.

FA CUP ROUND TWO

The Spice Of Life

3 Attacks, 2 Shots, 4-3-3

Goals:

Injuries:

No problems for Riding, and are rewarded with a home tie against Sine Language.

0 4 Riding The Tiger

17 Attacks, 8 Shots, 4-4-2

Spurt 44, SixtyNine 84, Concorde 74, Ian 8

S.Hill (-1 levels)

Tantoine F.C.

28 Attacks, 8 Shots, 4-4-2

Goals: IG88 78

Booked:

Some respite from league problems for The Chocolats, but even here, against one of the worst teams around, they struggle to look convincing.

1 2 The Chocolats

38 Attacks, 17 Shots, 3-2-5

Parfait 8, Vanilla Dreams 15

Romantica

Beat Happening F.C.

14 Attacks, 6 Shots, 3-5-2

Goals: Edge 73(pen)

Booked: T.B.Fever

Another win for Beat, albeit a slender one, and an intriguing tie against Grand Prix awaits.

1 0 Canine City

7 Attacks, 1 Shots, 3-4-3

Collie

Pooch City

23 Attacks, 7 Shots, 3-4-3

Goals: Trudy 68

Booked: Cassandra

Injuries: Cruyft (-1 levels)

Pooch dominate possession, but it's Maidswater that come out on top as they convert far more chances. Trudy gets a consolation goal, just to keep up the scoring record.

1 5 Maidswater

14 Attacks, 14 Shots, 3-2-5

Bulmer 52, Duval 14, 33, 56, Mule 1

Elephant

Pastis (0 levels)

Grand Prix Rovers

47 Attacks, 25 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Venus (1 pen missed), Sirius 23, Churchill 47, Churchill 29, Mercury 25

Injuries: Saturn (0 levels)

Impressive form sees Grand Prix progress, as Hanna, although respectable, never really looked the match of their division 3 opponents.

4 1 Hanna Barberans

20 Attacks, 6 Shots, 4-3-3

Sawtooth 70

Siwo Prisoners

82 Attacks, 55 Shots, 2-2-6

Goals: Queen 44, 74, Ivan 14, 26, 27, 36, 76, Gontsjarev 13, 65, 79, Dana 36

Sent Off:

11 0 Midkemia

0 Attacks, 0 Shots, 3-4-3

Edwards

A devastatingly impressive performance by Siwo destroys Midkemia. They narrowly fail to take the records for most goals and most goals by one player, but 82 attacks & 55 shots may well be a record.

Sine Language

35 Attacks, 15 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Tetrahedron 16, Spherical 1, Lobachevskyan 35

Booked: Tetrahedron

No real problems for Sine Language, as Born Free can't compete.

3 0 Born Free

5 Attacks, 2 Shots, 4-4-2

The South

34 Attacks, 34 Shots, 3-4-3

Goals: D.Beige 34, 58, Octahedron 16, 30, 35

Booked:

Heffalumps attack impressively, but The South still come out on top easily enough.

5 1 Heffalumps

10 Attacks, 10 Shots, 2-2-6

Badawi 63

Pitstop, Tullybelton

FA CUP ROUNDUP and DRAW

Well, some mad wins there, and we now have 4 division 1 sides, 3 division 3 sides and Beat Happening. The draw means there will be exactly 2 division 1 teams in the semis though, and Riding v Sine Language and South v Chocolats both look mouthwatering ties. In the league, Siwo look to have an edge on Maidswater, but again it should be close, especials with home advantage going to the weaker (?) side. Which leaves perhaps the tie of the round, Grand Prix Rovers v Beat Happening. Two relatively lowly teams, but both on incredibly good form- this should be a match to remember.

Riding The Tiger v Sine Language

Maidswater v Siwo Prisoners

The South v The Chocolats

Grand Prix Rovers v Beat Happening

Frankenstein Sound Lab: The Zine

He's off again. Kevin used to do a zine called Wearwolf, but to mesh with his newfound Thatcherite spirit of entrepreneurship, he's rechristened it to match (rebranding they call it these days, I guess.) It must be said though that it has improved in the process. Under the old name, I couldn't make head nor tale of it, whereas now it's at least semi-coherent and interesting (not semi-interesting.)

Highlight is the large feature on Woden, Iowa, a random small town in the US that Kevin seems to have adopted. This kind of segues itself into a more general ramble about music and Middlesbrough, Lord Halifax and Ed Gein (,brown paper packages tied up with string. . . .). And there's other stuff as well, particularly a piece on The Cramps, and the intriguing "The Strange Case of the Renishaw Coffin". Add in some very odd illos, odd poetry and just general oddness and you've got the whole tiny package (it's A6 size, 24 pages.)

Yes, odd stuff, and worth a look. Single copies cost 2 stamps, or you can get 5 issues for £3. It comes from Wolfs Head Press, PO Box 77, Sunderland, SR1 1EB.

PLS THIRD ROUND-Match 1

Grand Prix Rovers

39 Attacks, 39 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Saturn 49, Panis 2, Churchill 12, 64, 64, Taurus 23, Trudy 49, Sirius 13, 16, 42, 87

Booked: Mercury

Injuries: Venus (-1 levels)

That man Trudy scores again, if only Pooch had another ten like him(/her). 11 goals for the winners again, but apart from poor 'keeping from Pooch this was a closer game. Still, they'll find it hard to progress to the final with this goal difference.

11 1 Pooch City

26 Attacks, 13 Shots, 3-3-4

Trudy 34

Trudy

Subway Replicants

24 Attacks, 8 Shots, 3-2-5

Goals: Tolbiac 46

Sent Off:

Injuries: Ourcq (0 levels), Concorde (-2 levels), Orleans (0 levels)

Unlucky Subway had the advantage throughout, but 3 injuries destroyed their game plans, and Salford took advantage of fortune. Subway still have good chances of progressing to the next round, but Salford definitely have to lose next time for that to perhaps happen.

1 2 Salford Albion

10 Attacks, 2 Shots, 5-3-2

Osborne 5(pen), Muddy Mudskipper 44

Muddy Mudskipper

Moss Side Streetfighters

12 Attacks, 3 Shots, 3-5-2

Goals:

Booked: Eco

Injuries: Rosedale (-1 levels)

A good away win for manager Stanton. One more point should be enough to progress.

0 3 Sine Language

58 Attacks, 23 Shots, 3-2-5

Riemannian 55, Plus 2, Octagon 55

CLEAN SHEETS/NMRs

No orders from Eardley End, Pitchwheels, and Moss Side(-1 GPP season 8). Clean sheets from 13 teams again, and 1 GPP (season 8) goes to each of Born Free, Subway Replicants and Classically Decomposed. NMRs This Season: Eardley End (3-sacked), Pitchwheels IV(2), Moss Side (1).

SUSPENSIONS

(All players listed are banned for the first match of the coming session, unless otherwise stated. (2) means the next 2 matches etc.)

One big suspension for Hanna Barberans this time, while Pooch City lose the league's top scorer for one match.

Salford Albion; Muddy Mudskipper (Mf, 2). **The Capitols;** Brooklyn (Mf). **Hanna Barberans;** Sawtooth (Fw, 3). **The 'A' Team;** Alligator (Mf). **Sine Language;** Abelian (Fw). **The South;** C.Black (Mf). **Eardley End;** Boucher (Fw). **Pooch City;** Trudy (Fw). **Midkemia;** Edwards (Sw). **Morning Star;** Janice (Df/Mf/Fw). **Biscuits F.C.;** Jammy Dodger (Fw). **Siwo Prisoners;** Wolfe (Sw).

YOUTH CUP DRAW

As last year, the youth cup is a straight knockout competition, at neutral grounds, with draws settled by penalty shootout. You are allowed to play 2 overage (ie non-youth) players per match. There is a wimbledon style draw (ie you can trace your potential opponents through to the final) and the winner and runner up from last year get a bye in round 1, and play each other in a youth friendly.

If you don't have enough youth players you may discover more instantly at any time (subject to having slots left: your squad list will tell you how many more you can discover this season.) If you still can't form a youth team, you will be fined 10k per missing player per match. If you play your youth players in non-youth matches, then claim you have no available players for the youth cup, I will if possible redesign your team sheet so you do: this is thus a bad plan!

Round 1	R2	QF	SF	Final
Moss Side Streetfighters v Lanchester	V			
The Spice of Life v Village Idiots		V		
Maidswater v The Capitols	V			
Salford Albion v Morning Star			V	
Pitchwheels IV v Beat Happening FC	V			
The Chocolats v Canine City		V		
Siwo Prisoners v Subway Replicants	V			
Grand Prix Rovers (bye)				V
Classically Decomposed v Tantoine FC	V			
Biscuits FC v Born Free		V		
Hanna Barberans (bye)	V			
Sine Language v Eardley End			V	
Heffalumps v Pooch City	V			
The 'A' Team v Video Nasties		V		
The South v Riding The Tiger	V			
Midkemia v Wacko Wanderers				

NON-LEAGUE CONNECTIONS

Round Six Results

Major cock-up last time, in that I suddenly skipped a round. It's not reversible, because you've seen all the clues now. Ah well.

And the answers were;

- 1. Down With The Queen:** Bottom, Cap, Hole, Box, List, Country, Panther, Pudding, Mail, Belt, Head, Magic
Answer: **All can be preceded by Black**
Not the answer: Parts of a camera, Random words from "Queen" songs (that would be almost impossible to get!) ,
Shakespearian characters, Parts of a bottle, Beer (?), Young Ones, Golfing terms , Royalty
A flood of late solvers on this one, after some diverse guesses. Peter Stanton's Connections experience probably stood him in good stead here.
- 2. Little England:** Leeds, London, Liverpool, Sunderland, Wrexham, Southport, Salford, Didcot, Harrow, Ramsgate, High Wycombe, Congleton
Answer: **Home towns of managers in The Premier League**
Not the answer: Cities with NF councillors, Rivers run through them, 11 largest cities in England
Perhaps surprisingly there seems to have been little or no advantage to those managers whose towns were mentioned.
- 3. Don't Come Easy:** Life, Clear, Mention, Certain, Record, Near, Curtain, Amusing, Blows, Highway, Regrets, My
Answer: **Words in "My Way"**
Not the answer: Trial verdicts, Things said when dealing with a heart attack, Scientology.
Some people knew where this was heading but couldn't quite get the song.
- 4. Around The World:** Palestine, Paris, Odessa, San Marcos, Temple, Sherman, Crockett, Amarillo, Marlin, Austin, Laredo, Houston
Answer: **Places in Texas**
Not the answer: Mythological creatures (?!), Phineas Fogg, Miami Vice
Complete befuddlement for most.
- 5. Why You?:** Why, You, Queue, Eye, See, Eggs, Ell, Are, Jay, Em, Tee, Pea
Answer: **Words with the same sounds as letters of the alphabet**
Not the answer: 3 letter words where the last letter of a word is the same as the first letter of the following word.
Dead easy.
- 6. 8-6, 8-6:** Adam Bell, Mary Ambree, Sir Andrew Barton, Bob Norris, Gil Brenton, Sir Patrick Spense, Hollis Brown, Chevy Chase, The Gaberlunzie Man, Reading Gaol, John & Yoko, Sad Café
Answer: **Ballads**
Not the answer: Nobel Prize winners, Tennis Umpires, Ballet Dancers (supplied with the logic 8-6=2,2 ie Tutu), People who have won Wimbledon finals by the score 8-6 8-6, Monetary Policy Committee members, People born on 8th June
One that started off very difficult and got a lot easier as it went on. More general puzzlement.
- 7. Utd not City:** Rife, Mid, Polka, Song, Zoned, Yolk, Urea, Tried, Soke, Plea, Rhea, Womb
Answer: **Words where the letters are in reverse alphabetical order**
Not the answer: Can add the word to the letters "UNITED" to make another word (no, you're right, it doesn't make sense),
Mad dogs and Englishmen (think someone was losing it by this point!), Adjectives, Middle letters form a word, after discarding end letters (bizarrely this almost works), first two letters are vehicle registrations
The elation in Peter Stanton's writing when he got this was almost audible. Very difficult to put together, very difficult to solve (although completely fair: no outside knowledge whatsoever was needed to solve this.)
- 8. Old Familiar Places:** Newcastle, Liverpool, Derby, Devonshire, Portland, Aberdeen, Salisbury, North, Grey, Heath, Wilmington, Eden
Answer: **Prime Ministers**
Not the answer: Universities, Ports, Places you've spent more than a few hours in, Places associated with sitcoms, Royal Navy Ships, Earls, Prisons, Cakes (!), Addresses in London
Lots of hedging around this, with my sneaky ordering causing a lot of people to go for places or lords (hah! My cunning ploy worked.)

9. Sans Frontier: France, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, England, Turkey, Poland, South Africa, Argentina, China

Answer: **Countries in the 2002 World Cup Finals**

Not the answer: Countries with overseas dependencies, Countries that have adopted the Euro, Countries which use to compete in Jeux Sans Frontiers/It's a Knockout (European Version), Mainland Europe countries with land borders, Members of NATO

Thought this would be dead easy, as we started just at the end of the finals as I remember, but still lots of football fans missed it entirely.

10. Crazy Names: Felix, Leo, Eugene, Martin, Linus, Peter, John, Paul, Urban, Alexander, Innocent, Pius

Answer: **Popes**

Not the answer: MPs Children, They all have the second name of "The", First Names of James Bond Characters (feasible, feasible) Christian names of Oldham players (quite an image that one, straight out of Monty Python), names of "Crazy Gang" members, Brazilian Goalkeepers (love it!), Disciples

Some extremely funny answers there. We also got cats, as I expected, and the odd snoopy reference. Not too many popes though. Interesting that Alexander Pope is probably more famous than Pope Alexander.

The really scary thing is that it only took 9 of you to come up with that many odd answers. . .

And The Final Scores

Player	Answers to Connection:										This Round	C/F	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Peter Stanton	15	12.5	15	15	14	☺	15	☺	15	11.5	25	112	137
John Walker	12	14.5	13.5	☺	14	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	70.5	54	124.5
Kevin	12	14.5		13.5	14	15	☹	14.5	☺	15	11.5	98.5	110
Mick Haytack	☺		13.5	13.5	10	☺	☹	14.5	15	14	21.5	80.5	102
Arthur Owen	12	12.5	☺	☹	10	☺		☹	13	11.5	24.5	59	83.5
Graham Thomas	12			12	10					11.5	0	45.5	45.5
Dave Gittins	12				10					11.5	0	33.5	33.5
Martin Waterson					10						0	10	10
Richard Tarver											0	0	0
Points Scored	9	-	12	11	-	12.5	14	12.5	11.5	9			

☺ = Correct guess this round ☹ = Incorrect guess this round ? = Nearly but not quite the right answer

No.: score for previous round

The last round sees Peter Stanton solve the last 2 to ensure victory. The surprise package though is John Walker, who started 5th but managed to solve all 6 connections he didn't have for a fine second place. Well done to both John and Peter, and I hope the rest of you enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed running it.

PRESS

Kevin-GM: Sorry to have to dismantle such a cunningly constructed house of cards but. . .that Washington programme wasn't a clue, it was a mistake. I've no idea why I sent it to you, it was destined for elsewhere. . .probably something to do with my habit of writing letters in batches. . .sooner or later something is going to get put in the wrong envelope. Presumably the other person got the £20 note I'd intended for yours.

(. . .) so anyway, the programme was a red herring. Of course can you be sure that I'm actually male? Or human even? I could be Jack The Ripper (Kevin's cat) or even just a brain in a pickle jar attached to a PC by wires.

((ah well, it was a nice thought!))

WAITING LIST

On the waiting list is possibly Kevin's brother-in-law, Graham Ross, of 32 Hanover St, St Pauls, Cheltenham, Glos., GL50 4HJ. He will have a choice of teams.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

None known.

LEADING SCORERS

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
Pooch City Trudy 15	Video Nasties Dads Army 8	Grand Prix Rovers Taurus 11
Subway Replicants Goncourt 9	Beat Happening F.C. Blissett 7	The 'A' Team Albion 10
Subway Replicants Auber 8		Maidswater Oranjeboom 9
Riding The Tiger Hand Job 8		Grand Prix Rovers Sirius 8
Hanna Barberans Captain Caveman 7		Maidswater Duval 7
Sine Language Octagon 7		Grand Prix Rovers Churchill 7
The South Octahedron 7		
Subway Replicants Senard 7		
The Chocolats Pindarots 7		
The Chocolats Vanilla Dreams 7		
Pooch City Irwin 7		

Trudy zooms to the top for Pooch City thanks to a phenomenal session, while Subway replicants and Grand Prix Rovers have the most scorers in the lists. Blissett joins Dads Army to double the representation from Division 2.

Remember that there is now prize money for the leading scorer in each division, by the way. This may or may not affect your match strategies!

QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

As always, I welcome your comments on anything about the zine, so I know what you like and what you dislike.

Manager Profiles

Kevin >>> Interested in your mention of the "average manager profile". . . is the average manager age really 40? Perhaps we could have manager profiles as part of the pre-season zine. Add a sort of psychological edge to things. Of course, you'd never be quite sure I wasn't lying. . .
((Not a bad idea actually. I could get managers to make predictions as to their teams performance, so I get to laugh at them for a change!))

Injury Time

Kevin >>> Aeons ago I did actually take (and pass!) the referees exam, though only to see if I could, never actually wanted to take it up. Still got the old rulebook though. Only thing it really says on the question is that the game should consist of two equal periods of 45 minutes (unless mutually agreed otherwise) and the game can only exceed the 90 minutes to allow the taking of a penalty.
((Not sure that helps, but it is interesting. There seems to be an implication there that two sides could by mutual agreement only play 10 minutes each way, thus almost guaranteeing a draw, and leaving players fresh for the next week. Or that they could play 90 minutes divided into 10 9 minute periods, allowing for plenty of ad breaks and boosting TV revenues! Is that really legal? And if so, why has nobody tried it?))

Backroom Boys

Anon >>> I presume [player age V level 7] can retire as a backroom boy at the end of the season for a 2 season contract.

((No, for 2 reasons. Ageing happens right at the start of the close season. You can convert a player to BRB after ageing, but by that time this player won't exist to be converted (as on ageing he would go below level 2.) You could retire him before the close season, at which point he becomes an age 1 backroom boy, and ages to age 2 in the close season. This ensures his survival but you don't get 2 full years use out of him. The alternative is to coach him once this season, so he survives ageing, then you can convert him in the close season and get 2 full seasons out of him.))

I will clarify the rules on this, as the close season rules could be clearer.))

THE AUCTION

Before we start, note that Born Free's auction buy of last time, Wombat, has been renamed Bat, as he already has a wombat (wouldn't want two, they might start breeding, and then where would we be?)

And the results of the last auction were:

1) Coach II	NO BIDS!		
2) Physio II	24k	Pooch City	
3) Sw App 8(2)	733k	The Capitols	Blob
4) Df Sby 5(2)	436k	Salford Albion	Moore
5) Df/Mf/Fw II 13(0)	1148k	Pooch City	Serbirusse
6) Fw III 9(2)	297k	Hanna Barberans	Gravel Bash
7) Mf IV 12(0)	348k	Beat Happening	Hit
8) Df V12(-1)	384k	Grand Prix Rovers	Williams
9) Fw VI 11(2)(10 DPs)	245k	Hanna Barberans	Morroco Mole
10) Andy Ritchie	NO LEGAL BIDS		

Nobody in the entire league wants a coach? Not even for £1k? Hmmm. A very cheap physio for Pooch city as well. Ok, these guys only have half a season left in them, but very cheap all the same. In my opinion, some very cheap youth players as well: the schoolboy in particular was an outstanding player, and Salford got a real bargain there. On the other hand, we have a return to normal price levels as the multi-talented Serbirusse (hope I got that right!) passes the million pound mark. Little interest in lot 6, although he will provide 15 cps for Hanna Barberans, so worth the price I guess. Hanna get a particularly keen bargain in Morroco Mole, who has a good level now, will last another season as well and then gets to be a backroom boy.

Poor Andy Ritchie though continues to look for management opportunities in the non-league. Awww.

And next sessions lots are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1) Scout II | 2) Groundsman II | 3) Mf App 8(2)+1 match (435k) |
| 4) Fw Sby 5(2) (210k) | 5) Df I 11 (-1) (540k) | 6) Mf II 11 (0) (+4 games as Df) (450k) |
| 7) Fw III 9 (2) (280k) | 8) Mf IV 10 (2) (240k) | 9) Dennis Irwin |
| 10) Lindwall Df I 6(2) (240k) | | |

Reserve prices should be in brackets. Lot 10 is from Hanna Barberans and has a maximum skill this season of 10. Lot 9, Dennis Irwin, is a Df V 7(0) who has the bonus ability to give each of your midfielders 2 games experience as Df (counting towards the 7 they need to become dual qualified). This will happen immediately as a one-off action.

SALES & DEALS

Non-league sales as follows. The Capitols sell Gyaos (Df), Robert (Mf/Fw), Ghidrah (Mf), Tokyo (Fw) for 750k, Grand Prix Rovers sell Bowen (Sw) for 120k, Hanna Barberans sell Gooch (Mf), Nice (Mf) for 280k.

Don't forget, the transfer deadline is in session 7: last sales and auction bids will be in session 7 orders.

THINGS WHICH HAVE REALLY PISSED ME OFF THIS ISSUE

Oh, where do I start...?

The Royal Mail

Yes, it's "bash another great British institution" time. The last issue of The Premier League didn't drop on to my doormat in the conventional manner. In fact, it didn't drop on to my doormat at all. Instead I got a delightful card informing me that it was being held at a Sorting Office on the other side of town and that to take receipt of it I would have to pay 86 pence IN EXACT MONEY (their capitals, not mine). It transpires that Martin included a couple of photocopies along with my zine and this pushed up the weight over the limit for which a 27 pence stamp is acceptable (Do you know what that weight is? Thought not). ((Neither do I-MB)) So I had to pay 6 pence additional postage and an 80 pence handling charge. Well, I would have done had I bothered to collect it. The same thing happened with another zine a few months ago. In that instance all copies had additional sheets, but only 3 out of 20 or so had to pay any extra – the rest were delivered in the usual fashion.

A number of things strike me about these events. It's quite obvious that there is a "jobsworth" mentality among the postal workers at my local Sorting Office. What I have done to deserve this I can only begin to speculate. The handling charge is clearly blatant profiteering. The postal worker would presumably have to return to the Sorting Office after deliveries in any case, and I can't see how storing a relatively small envelope is going to incur any great cost. The Office is open during hours that suit the postal workers, and not me. The exact money clause is a good one as exacting money seems to be what they're doing – I can't recall the last time I ever had more than about 40 pence in change, so I'd pay my £1 and lo, another 14 pence of pure profit for the Royal Mail! Multiply this by the number of poor saps who pay these charges and you're on to quite a nice little earner.

I don't blame Martin as it was a genuine oversight on his part (or so he tells me – I just think he wanted to provide me with some inspiration for this page)((Like you need it Gittins)), but it seems a tad unfair to put the blameless recipient at so much inconvenience. I don't suppose the powers that be care about any of this, but it is nice to get this one off my chest.

Charity Bags

Another familiar theme – a moan about charities. One thing we do get dropping on to our doormat on a regular basis are pre-packed plastic bags which one is urged to fill with clothing, bric-a-brac, books, etc in good condition. The bag indicates a collection date for both filled and unused bags. We are very good about this and try to fill a bag every few months with some of the junk we no longer need (my wife's collection of Terence Trent D'Arby CDs seems to magically reappear on every occasion I've put it in a bag). The filled bags are always collected. The unused bags however are not so frequently collected. Since Christmas, 3 charities have failed to collect unused bags from us. I don't know how many of these bags are delivered, but it seems to me that there must be a lot of waste here. I will now be reluctant to give anything to the charities in question because they do not appear to be operating in an efficient manner. In more ways than one, this is not a state of affairs I'm happy about.

Crisp Flavour Update

You may recall my plea a few issues ago for the return of the crisps with the little blue salt bag. Well, someone at Walkers must read TPL, because they're back! In addition, baked bean flavour crisps & Monster Munch have been launched for Comic Relief – they're better than I thought they'd be. ((See how influential we are?))

Cover Versions Update

Counting Crows, who I'd previously been quite fond of, have released the zillionth cover of Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi". In the light of the great stuff they've done over the last ten years or so, it's sad that this is now their biggest ever hit. Those who remember with horror Doctor & The Medics' 1986 assault on Norman Greenbaum's "Spirit In The Sky", will be even more horrified once they've heard Gareth Gates' version. The video features the Kumars – is this another Comic Relief thing? I might just let them off if it is. I've no idea who DJ Sammy is, but a dance version of Bryan Adams' tedious "Heaven" gave him/her a recent chart topper. Now he/she's committed a more heinous crime – a dance version of Don Henley's "The Boys Of Summer". Are no mid-80's US AOR tracks safe? Is Toto's "Africa next, or a dance version of "Babe" by Styx, which would almost certainly improve on the original?

If you've any observations on the above or thoughts on anything else, get in touch and I'll include them next time. Send e-mails to davidgittins@skynow.net, or write to **Dave Gittins, 14 Daisybank Drive, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1LX**

FIXTURES FOR NEXT SESSION

ALL MATCHES FOR THE COMING SESSION SHOULD BE LISTED HERE, IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE PLAYED (TOP TO BOTTOM). FOR LEAGUE MATCHES THE LEFT HAND COLUMN IS PLAYED FIRST. HOME ADVANTAGE APPLIES EXCEPT IN CUP SEMIS & FINALS.

DIVISION 1

Pitchwheels IV vs Subway Replicants
The Chocolats vs Riding The Tiger
Pooch City vs Heffalumps
Sine Language vs Hanna Barberans
The South vs Salford Albion

DIVISION 2

The Capitols vs Canine City
Beat Happening F.C. vs Wacko Wanderers
Biscuits F.C. vs The Village Idiots
Video Nasties vs Classically Decomposed
Born Free vs Eardley End

DIVISION 3

Maidswater vs The 'A' Team
Morning Star vs The Spice Of Life
Tantoine F.C. vs Siwo Prisoners
Moss Side Streetfighters vs Lanchester
Grand Prix Rovers vs Midkemia

Premier League Shield Round 3 Match 2

Pooch City v Subway Replicants
Salford Albion v Moss Side Streetfighters
Sine Language v Grand Prix Rovers

Youth Friendly (Neutral Ground)

Hanna Barberans v Grand Prix Rovers

YOUTH CUP Round 1 (Neutral Ground)

Moss Side Streetfighters v Lanchester	The Spice of Life v Village Idiots
Maidswater v The Capitols	Salford Albion v Morning Star
Pitchwheels IV v Beat Happening FC	The Chocolats v Canine City
Siwo Prisoners v Subway Replicants	Classically Decomposed v Tantoine FC
Biscuits FC v Born Free	Sine Language v Eardley End
Heffalumps v Pooch City	The 'A' Team v Video Nasties
The South v Riding The Tiger	Midkemia v Wacko Wanderers